



NEWS RELEASE

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NEW LANES ON 101 OFFER PENINSULA COMMUTERS AN EASIER, SAFER WAY TO GET ON AND OFF THE HIGHWAY

MENLO PARK – Motorists on U.S. Highway 101 in San Mateo County now have designated lanes known as “auxiliary” lanes - giving them more time and space to safely merge on and off one of the Bay Area’s busiest highways.

“We’ve made driving safer and less stressful, and that’s what really matters,” said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. “By making it easier to enter and exit the highway, we’re also improving safety and helping to reduce congestion.”

The project added a new “auxiliary” lane in each direction of U.S. Highway 101 between Marsh Road in San Mateo County and Embarcadero Road in Santa Clara County; improved several on-ramps; and reconstructed the Ringwood bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing, bringing it up to current safety standards.

“Our reconstruction of the Ringwood overcrossing is an example of our ongoing commitment to meet the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians,” said Caltrans District 4 Director Bijan Sartipi.

“In 1988, when San Mateo County voters passed Measure A, continuous auxiliary lanes along Highway 101 were critical to the vision for county-wide congestion management,” said Karyl Matsumoto, vice chair, San Mateo County Transportation Authority. “It is with great pride that the completion of this stretch brings that vision within reach for today’s commuters.”

The project complements another project (scheduled to be completed next summer) that is adding more auxiliary lanes on U.S. Highway 101 from Embarcadero Road to State Route 85 in Santa Clara County. Both projects combined will provide more than seven miles of new auxiliary lanes.

The \$44.5 million dollar project was a partnership between Caltrans, the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, and the City/County Association of Governments. It was partially financed by more than \$20 million from Proposition 1B, a 2006 voter-approved bond. In total, nearly \$14.6 billion in Proposition 1B funds have been distributed statewide.

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